CDXC Newsletter

July 1992 *Chiltern DX Club* Issue 79

Editorial

(Andrew Shaw, G0HSD)

We we are now well and truly on the long slippery slope down towards the trough of the cycle. Conditions have been appalling. I must admit I was a little disappointed at the conditions during the peak of cycle 22. This was my first cycle and I was led to believe that things would be more impressive. But not to worry. I managed to work many rare delights in my first five years as an amateur on HF. I will now have to find other ways to enjoy the hobby in the next five as things go down hill.

I hope every one is enjoying the summer so far. I have been extremely busy over that last few months and have had very little time for recreation of any sort let alone radio. Pressure of work and examinations kept me away from the shack for nearly three months and I am consequently out of touch with the DX scene in general.

I have made an addition to the shack, a new FT-890, the new compact rig from Yaesu. It is by far the smallest rig on the market, with a receiver performance not far short of the 3 thousand plus rigs at the top of the range. The rig has almost every feature you could need - a built in keyer and auto ATU, a very complex speech processor and a series of attenuators to keep 40m QRM away. The only problem I have encountered was during the recent IARU HF Championship. I fitted the narrow (250Hz) CW filter two hours before the contest and found that it was too sharp for contest use. I was told that several stations were calling about 100Hz off my frequency and I couldn't hear a thing. I guess I should have spent longer testing the filter performance before the contest.

Well I guess we are all winding up towards the HF/IOTA Convention in late September. It looks like being, once again, a great time with plenty to see and do. As usual many members of the committee will have their work cut out representing various RSGB interests at Beaumont and therefore we will need your help and support to make the CDXC presence a success. If you are able to help out in any way either before or during the Convention please let me know: I do hate having to twist arms at the DX Dinner!!

Finally, this is the penultimate Newsletter before I start my travels, so please send me any input by 12th September. The next Newsletter will be available from the CDXC stand at the HF Convention.

Best 73s and good DX!!
Andrew

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Steve Telenius-Lowe P29DX:

At the time of writing I am looking forward to departing on a round the world trip in about five weeks time, taking in Sweden, England, Bermuda, the New Orleans International DX Convention, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa, with luck American Samoa and Niue, and Australia.

I will be taking an FT-747GX, perhaps a small linear amplifier and the trusty Butternut HF6V, so hope to work some CDXC members from some of the stops. The only callsign I know in advance is for Fiji, where I have been assigned 3D2SL. I also look forward to meeting some CDXC members when we're in England for a few days in mid- August.

I wonder if there will be any other CDXC members at the New Orleans International DX Convention? It looks a very good programme and by all accounts the venue at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street in the heart of the French Quarter is meant to be one of the best hotels in New Orleans. Never having been to Dayton or Visalia, in fact only ever having been to the RSGB HF Convention in the past, I'm looking forward to my first U.S. DX Convention to see how the yanks do it.

I'm looking forward to a visit from Andrew G0HSD and Don G3OZF in time for the CQ World Wide SSB contest, which takes place only 5 days after I get back to Papua New Guinea. We should be putting in a fairly serious multi-single entry (with the help of some local P29 amateurs) in an attempt to beat the Oceania multi- single record, which is held by the Japanese KH2S operation last year with a claimed score of about 11.1 million points.

In preparation for the contest I have recently put up a 2-element delta

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Deadline for next newsletter: 12th Sept. 92

loop for 3.8 MHz at my "contest QTH", beaming on the USA. The performance of the array is outstanding, far better than even my expectations, with every station in the Americas that I asked reporting a two S-unit advantage over the professional wide-band delta loop which I used in CQWW last year (and which is itself a very good DX antenna on 3.8 MHz.) The 2-element has a broad front lobe and the 2 S-unit gain was reported from KL7, VE7, W6, W0, W5, W4, CE, LU and even PY (almost the antipodes from my QTH.)

The 80m phone band here is completely different from Europe - for a start my band is only 3790-3810 kHz, while the VKs only have 3796-3800 kHz. Most evenings you only hear one or two VKs or ZLs or some common-or-garden V63 or KH7 (!) on the band calling CQ DX and sometimes getting replies. When I fired up the 2-element delta array using about 200 watts I had an immediate pile-up of weakish VE and W stations, from as far east as Georgia and Tennessee. Stations running 25 watts to dipoles were calling and getting through. At least two VKs called to say that they couldn't even hear stations that I was getting at the 56 to 57 level and could only just copy the 58 to 59 signals - it is an amazing feeling to know that you have such a commanding signal on the band! My next plan is to be slightly more ambitious and also put up a similar 3-element array fixed on Europe. If that works as well as the Stateside array I don't anticipate any trouble working Europeans on 80m SSB. If it does work well, I will leave it up after the contest and will arrange a weekend activity when anyone needing P29 on 80m can have a shot without contest QRM. *(Ed. After the recent IARU HF Championship, Steve said that 40m condx were so bad that he was thinking about a better antenna for 40m instead of 80m as the contest could be won or lost on that band.)*

Unfortunately my "contest QTH" is a 20-km drive from home and the security situation means that any evening or early morning activity requires an all-night stint. This is why I have in the past only operated from that QTH for major contests.

For CQ World Wide we will be using either my P29DX call or the special P20A call which I used in the WPX contest in March, and would appreciate it if all CDXC members hearing us during the contest would give us a call and help us to beat the Oceania record. The G, GW, GM etc multipliers are quite hard to pick up from this part of the world, especially on 40 or 80 metres, so please do look for us and give us a call!

From Brendan, G4DYO:

Martin's comments last issue got my head nodding in agreement. Why don't UK amateurs have the same enthusiasm for HF DXing as their counterparts in other countries? Or, to bring it closer to our hearts, why don't more UK HF DXers support CDXC? A few days ago one of the 6m ops mentioned to me on the Cluster that the UK 6m Group had

over 700 members - OK not all in the UK - but how do they do it and why can't we get the same support from the HF gang? There must be hundreds more DXers on HF than 6m so why don't they show themselves and join CDXC? There is also a significant number of DXers who chase HF as well as 6m, who are members of the 6m Group but who do not support CDXC (or DXNS).. The International Short Wave League has a large membership as does the International Listeners Association; could the answer be in their titles? Maybe Chiltern DX Club is too parochial and if the Club truly wants to represent the UK HF gang further consideration should be given to a change of name to embrace the whole of the UK. I recently spoke with one of the Bournemouth DXers and asked why the guys down there did not belong to CDXC or support our functions. He replied that the Thames Valley was too far to travel and they could see no benefit in joining a Club based in this area. Remember that the Canadian DX Association CANAD-X is adminstered by the Toronto DX Association. Worth consideration, eh? UK DX Foundation here we come?

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

From Brian, G4ODV:

I have meant to respond to the many mentions in DXNS that DXers should join the Club, but have only now got round to doing something about it, which has made me feel rather guilty as I feel UK DXers ought to have a presence on the international scene, with support of the deserving expeditions. One is always hearing about the NCDXF, the EUDXF (mainly DLs I think) and Japanese sponsorship groups, and it is only possible for these to perform through strength in numbers. Nevertheless I was impressed to read about the practical help given to the South Sandwich group by the CDXC members earlier this year.

A little about myself. I was introduced to radio via CB in 1980, but was always uncomfortable as an illegal sidebander. I was very pleased to learn about an RAE course at the local technical college, so took the RAE and obtained the G4ODV licence in 1982. I spent the first few years developing CW skills which I found fascinating, and was determined to match those FOC guys.

I am very much an operator, as opposed to a technician. My interests are DXing, contesting, and experimenting with LF antennas. My current goal is to hit 300 countries on 7MHz (present score is 297). This autumn/winter I intend to improve my scores on 3.5 and 1.8 which are currently very modest, being 145 and 84 respectively.

I have had no interest in computers thus far. However, the sheer number of contacts involved with contests and DXpeditions has reached such proportions that I can no longer handle them on a manual basis, and there can be no doubt about the terrific advantage of "real time" contest logging. For example, I did a single-band CQWW entry on 28MHz

from C5 in last year's CW contest and out of 2,500 QSOs slightly more than 120 were dupes which represents a lot of wasted time and points when there were always others calling. Additionally I operated from J5 for ten days, which has produced over 2,000 direct cards and I haven't even looked at the buro cards yet!

Best wishes, Brian Coyne, G4ODV

(Welcome to CDXC Brian! It's great to see someone who has so successfully made the transition from CB to amateur radio. CDXC members will no doubt remember Brian's excellent DXpedition operation from C5 and J5 - ed.)

From Alan, G3PMR:

As newly elected Secretary of CDXC, I thought some of you might like to have a little background to my amateur radio activities.

No, I don't have a mega station, and am not on the DXCC Honor Roll. I have quite a modest setup, and a relatively low countries score.

Like many others, I first got interested in amateur radio as a teenager, when over-hearing a 40m AM QSO on my parent's BC Rx - I suppose it must have been around 1956. I soon became an active SWL, and joined the RSGB, becoming A2074.

I got my licence in 1961, whilst at University in Bangor, North Wales. Much of my early operating was as GW3PMR, but I also operated from Gainsborough, Lincs and Retford, Notts. I was a member of the North Notts ARS, based in Worksop (and participated in a 2 man mini-Dxpedition to the Isles of Scilly, G3RCW/P). Also a member of that club in those days was CDXC member Peter Chadwick, G3RZP, and his father, G8ON. I founded the University College of North Wales Amateur Radio Society (GW3UCB), and was its first chairman.

So far as operating was concerned, I had little interest in DXing in those days, although I was quite interested in contesting. Most of my QSOs were top band local rag chews, although I did do a little DXing on 160m with my GW call. My rig was a Panda Cub Tx and a modified BC348 Rx, and I used a 300' long wire antenna from GW, with a G8ON at my Nottinghamshire QTH. For various reasons, I sold my rig in 1968, and was QRT for 17 years!

In 1984, I moved to my present QTH in Cambridgeshire, where, it turned out, my immediate neighbour was Mike, G4PFF! Visits to Mike's shack caused the amateur radio bug to bite again, and in 1985 I purchased a second hand FT757GX, and put up a temporary antenna, to get me on the air - a W3DZZ trapped dipole. Somehow, I haven't got around to replacing it - it's my only HF antenna even today!, and I use it on all bands from 80m-10m including the WARC bands. I didn't get bitten by the DX bug until around the end of 86, or maybe early 87.

Working DX with 90w to a W3DZZ at about 25' is not easy, but with a little cunning and lots of

patience it's possible - and, most importantly, I find it FUN. I still get a kick out of cracking a pile up with my pip squeak signal, and have managed to work most of the major DXpeditions in the last few years, although, regrettably, I missed out on Bouvet, Clipperton, and Spratly. My current score (since starting again) is 242 countries worked, and 228 confirmed, so I've a long way to go to reach Honor Roll status! One of these days, I suppose I'll acquire a tower, a beam, a linear, and a decent transceiver. However, I've set myself a target of 5BDXCC with my present setup - that's quite an easy task on 40m to 10m (and achieved some time ago), but I'm struggling somewhat on 80m!

I became a PacketCluster user in May 1991, and have a PCB88 TNC, with which I'm very happy. I think PacketCluster is a superb system, although sometimes misused - maybe I'll put my views down on that in a future news letter!

73 and good DXing de Alan, G3PMR

From Andy, G4ZVJ:

G4ZVJ PACIFIC TRIP

From 12 August - 9 September 1992 Andy Chadwick, G4ZVJ will sign KH8/G4ZVJ.

From 26 August - 2 September there will be activity form Niue Island signing ZK2VJ.

There may also be a short period of activity as 5W1VJ from Upolu Island.

Activity will be mainly CW with some RTTY/AMTOR.

QSL Via G4ZVJ

Best 73s, Andy

(Very best wishes for your trip, Andy!)

CDXC CONTESTING

(Paul Evans, G4BKI)

New technology, what next?

The steady ingress of the computer into practically every contesting shack has been one of the biggest changes in the last five years. This technology must now be out of infancy, but certainly not grown-up yet. There are a number of improvements and man-machine interface changes which can clearly be made yet.

While the rest of the software world ploughs headlong into Windows, X-Windows and GUI (graphical user interfaces), the contesting software is in good old DOS screens. The advantage of GUI is that a lot of hard work is done by pointing a mouse at an icon and clicking on it. Each icon performs as a separate process in the computer, so separate bits of code can be run. Imagine you have a main window

open showing the recent log listing. It's time to turn the beam on the States. Click into the rotator icon and a window pops open with a world map in it. Point the mouse on the States and click a mouse button and then close the window. The rotator starts up and turns the beam to the States. While the window was open, maybe you should have selected Auto on. This routine knows the beamwidth of your antenna on that band (& shows it shaded on the world map) and swings the beam if a significant number of recently worked stations fall outside that forward gain area or, alternatively, switches in another antenna to pick off some other stuff.

This is the sort of really efficient feature we should be looking for next in contesting software. The job of writing such code can also be partitioned between authors in order to lighten the already daunting responsibility on one individual's shoulders.

The move to the workstation (not merely a PC) in the shack (be it DOS or UNIX based) continues unabated and with it speed and improved graphics resolution. Imagine super check partial in K1EA being over before you even knew it started. Proper networking (not using serial ports) with the hugely robust TCP/IP protocol will be used to link machines together. Machines are already moving toward network ports on the motherboard, rather than a separate networking card, so it need not be expensive.

More critical to the advancement of contesting software is, I believe, the growing necessity to take it out of the Public Domain and to become a little more robust in terms of long term support and structured code writing. This can only be done if there is some reward to the author for what is large, complex databasing software. Further, and this is already happening, there needs to be commonality between systems, not just on what keytop does what, but in data structures such as the countries table, zones table, etc. How many people are constantly re-inventing the same wheel on such mundane data structures? It is the data files that need to be Public Domain and the runable code on the market at a reasonable price ($200?). If all this is run under Windows you could buy the bits you need and, for example, total integration to a normal log could be made.

This technology may sound expensive, but in two years time may well be 'old-hat'. All top contesting stations must be prepared to stay at the leading edge, whether it's in the operators, the rigs, the antenna or the computer system used.

Good Luck & good operating.

CDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB

RAMBLINGS OF A DX EDITOR

(Brendan McCartney, G4DYO)

I must go down to the shack again.
The shack and a lonely band.
And all I ask is a tall tower,
And a ham on a spit of sand (WB4SIJ)

Well, it might be more like a block of ice than a spit of sand, but I guess the most exciting news since the last Newsletter came from Jim Smith and, unless you live in a lead box, you will know that the Heard Island DX Association (HIDXA) is planning to mount two major DXpeditions during the coming months.

Willis Island and Mellish Reef will hopefully be "dealt with" at the end of the summer and Heard Island is planned for the coming winter (our time) - the first major operation from Heard for ten years - by which time it will be up around No.5 in the Most Wanted Country Survey. The most exciting aspect - for me anyway - is the possibility of a UK operator joining the Heard Island team. Ian Frith, G4GIR, thinks he can get enough time off work (at least five weeks) if enough money can be raised to sponsor him. It's a tall order, but not impossible. DXNS has already launched an appeal for financial assistance for HIDXA and to date pledges amounting to well over $2,600, including a generous one from CDXC, have been received - far more than for XY0RR! Keep a close eye on DX News Sheet for updates. (Incidentally, just because CDXC has pledged support doesn't mean that individual members should not do likewise and some of the biggest pledges have come from two club members. If you need Willis or Mellish or Heard do consider helping HIDXA to pull them off).

As a result of a questionnaire which was distributed by the RSGB HF Committee to all United Kingdom members of the DXCC Honor Roll a series of articles about HF operating is being published in RSGB's RadCom. My callsign has been mentioned and, as a result, I have received a number of interesting phone calls from "non-DXer" UK amateurs. Several were very interested in my Quad antennas and wanted to know how easy it was to build one. However, the call which caused me most amazement and most concern was from G3C** who wanted to know if I had ever heard VK, ZL or VU with my Quad. This amateur had a ham friend in Australia with whom he desperately wanted to make contact but, despite having Drake gear and a three-element tribander at 40ft, he had never heard a VK! He told me he had worked several dozen American stations, some of whom had peaked 56, but the real long-haul had never been a success. I spent a long time

discussing times, beam headings, frequencies, etc, with him but I gained the impression that he could hardly believe that VK could be worked on phone at anything like a readable signal. This made me wonder how many amateurs-of-long-standing have never experienced the thrill of working the other side of the world, yet we DXers look upon VK as so much QRM. Astonishing isn't it?

A well-known DXer came up on the twisted pair a week or two back for a l-o-n-g ragchew about the general state of DXing. Many aspects were discussed, including the age-old argument about CW speed. He thought it was pretty bad operating on the part of DXpedition stations to belt away at 40wpm while he could only just about get up to twelves. There they were, knocking off six contacts before he had even finished sending his callsign! Wasn't it time the DXpeditioners slowed down so the less experienced ops stood a chance of making a contact? This subject was discussed several years ago in the letters page of RadCom; didn't good CW operating demand that one adjusted one's speed to that of the station calling? Wasn't it up to the DX station to wind things down a bit when a novice called him? Things have changed dramatically with the vast increase in the number of amateurs owning "CW-capable" computers and even seasoned key-men are employing computer-generated CW for DXpeditions and Contests. Plus, DXpeditions operate for one purpose and one purpose alone - to give contacts to as many of the Deserving as possible. With this in mind, is it wrong to suggest that if YOU want to work a DXpedition or Contest station YOU should ensure that you can match his speed? I am not a CW freak, am incapable of ragchewing on the mode, but I enjoy chasing CW DXCC within my limitations. With only 20 to go to finish the lot on the dah-di-dah-dit mode I have had only had a handful of QSOs involving more than the "599 BK" type exchange and I am the first to admit my CW probably makes poor old Sam turn over in his grave. However, I have made some effort to ensure that I can a) copy my callsign and signal report at high-speed and b) call and reply in like manner (well, most of the time!) and I don't see why a DXpedition or Contest operator should drop from 25 to 12wpm to accommodate those who are not prepared to make that effort. The name of the game is QSO-rate and a gud op can work six fast QSOs in the time a slowy takes to send his call. So, move with technology; if you want to work a DXpedition or Contest station rattling away at good speed ensure YOU can keep up with him or the result is extra QRM... If not, slide up and have a few ragchews to get your speed up. OK you traditionalists, I'm writing this from inside a suit of armour, in a Chieftain tank, but I would certainly appreciate the views of **experienced CW DXers** - not just CW operators. Before discounting my views out of hand think.... If you are in the middle of CQWW CW do you

really wind your electronic keyer up and down for every QSO?

Until a year or two ago DXCC updates were handled quickly and efficiently by ARRL; if cards had not been returned in a few weeks anxiety states resulted. Now if one gets them back within six months it's time to open a bottle! "Computerisation" of DXCC records has caused huge backlogs of submissions to build up. As this is being written some 200,000 cards await checking and the figure is increasing daily. As a result of the major operations from Burma and Albania many DXers qualified for No.1 Honor Roll slot. Unfortunately, due to mess ups at the DXCC desk some guys may have to wait another year for their dream to be fulfilled. I am partly in limbo - it looks like I have reached No.1 slot in the Mixed Listings but they seem to have removed one of my SSB credits leaving me just one short! All the paperwork up to my last submission is in order but when my records were transferred to the computer they left out the credit for 5B4!!! Henry, G3GIQ and Tom, GW3AHN had similar problems. Hopefully they can be squared away but just imagine if you had ON5TW's problems.....

On 15 January Leon Halsband, ON5TW, mailed 325 QSL cards (316 current plus 9 deleted) to ARRL - his very first DXCC application which he hoped would put him straight on to Honor Roll. The application form was correctly filled out with his full name and address in Belgium and included (as required) details of his previous calls, one of which was PY2ZET. For some wholly inexplicable reason the ARRL, having processed his application, mailed his cards to an address in Brazil which Leon had occupied in 1984! Leon is a member of ARRL and the League has been using his address in Belgium since 1985 for QST and other correspondence. But that's not all... 10 cards were missing when he received the parcel, which had not been opened in Brazil, and according to the computerised record form nine of those cards had been credited to his DXCC, indicating that they had apparently been "lost" by the DXCC desk. Furthermore, three other cards were not credited and no explanation was given. Lastly, a card from Germany (DL5OV) was apparently credited as a deleted country! The result is that far from being on Honor Roll, Leon has lost some irreplaceable QSL cards and has been credited with only 311/321.

Being the editor of a DX Bulletin is akin to being an "agony aunt". I receive many "moans" from readers of DXNS about ARRL and DXCC but I always ask them to be patient and have always reassured them of the efficiency of the League. This case raises very serious questions and I have to support Leon's strong complaint to the President of ARRL about the sloppy handling of his application. Let's hope all of us with problems get them sorted out, otherwise I shall have to propose that G3KMA takes over the administration of DXCC Immediately!

Finally, what joy to see someone at last prepared to stand up and be counted in the fight against cheating in list operations... Well done to the HL boys and to a very honest Italian DXer - bet he's watching out for the Fedora hats and violin cases!

Finally-finally, sorry the offering is a little shorter than usual. Ruth and I took a break to celebrate our Silver Wedding and I haven't got my breath back yet.....

Keep chasing the DX - there's plenty of it. See you in the pile-ups?

THE FUTURE OF THE CDXC NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is the focal point of the Chiltern DX Club and is the vital link between fellow DXers across the world. The Committee have decided that to improve the existing Newsletter by issuing a bulletin sheet to all members in the months between newsletters. This is to provide information of social events, new members, and other important things that might be out of date before the next Newsletter. This will ensure that people are notified well in advance of get togethers and the club's activities as a whole.

G0HSD

SOCIAL EVENTS

P29DX Visits the UK

Steve, P29DX, and Eva will be in the UK during the middle of August. It is currently planned to hold a dinner for them both on Friday 21st of August. The venue will be The Lions of Bledlow near Princes Risborough.

Please note that it is impossible to telephone every member with the final details, so if you are interested in spending the evening with Steve and Eva please call me to get on the list (!!) well in advance as I have to arrange things with the landlord.

VS6CT

Phil will be in the UK between mid August until after the HF Convention, I will try and contact him and make arrangements for a get-together. Please phone me if you are interested.

CDXC Annual Dinner

The Committee has decided to move the annual CDXC Dinner away from the Christmas period. This was done firstly due to lack of support and that Christmas is

a very busy time for us all. The dinner will be held in February/March and full details will appear in the CDXC Newsletter well in advance.

CDXC Barbecue

Many thanks to Derek, G4BLX and Val, G4MCD, for kindly inviting the Club to share in their annual London to Brighton Cycle Race barbecue. It was a lovely day with lots of Val's Pimms and beer.

It was a great pity that only a handful of members turned up, almost the same crowd that attended last year, but those that did had a great time leaning on the gates watching the cyclists (!). After a few jars it was suggested that, as there were so many hams in the race, CDXC should mount a large tricycle next year and do the All Asia CW Contest /M !!

I certainly had a great time despite the traffic and locking the keys in my car and sincerely hope that more members can tear themselves away from their shacks next year and join in the fun, should we decide to hold another barbecue.

G0HSD

G3WGV Contest Logging Program (LOG)

I continue to distribute this software on behalf of CDXC. Proceeds from sales of this software go to CDXC funds (Tnx John).

The latest version, V3.04, contains a number of bug fixes, as well as updates to COUNTRY.DAT. In addition, 2 new utilities are available. These are RSGB.EXE and NEWPL.EXE.

RSGB.EXE produces contest logs on a floppy disk, in RSGB format.

NEWPL.EXE is a different version of the print program, which produces band by band alphanumeric listings.

Registered users of LOG who are still on support may obtain the above upgrade by sending me a formatted floppy disk with stamped addressed return mailer.

Registered users of LOG who are no longer on support (i.e. they first registered more than one year ago) may renew their support for a further twelve months for a payment of £10.00.

Initial registration for LOG costs £25.00

Cheques should be made payable to Alan Jubb, and sent to me at the following address:

Alan Jubb,
30 West Street,
Gt. Gransden,
SANDY,
Beds,
SG19 3AU
Tel 0767 677 913
Also @GB7RUT.

Origin Of The Term "HAM"

By Dave Pilley, VK2AYD

(Tnx G4BUE and FOCUS, Australian Branch of RNARS "Signal" Newsletter.)

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called "hams"? Well it goes something like this:-

The word "ham" was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of the first radio amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert Hyman, Bob Almay and Peggie Murray.

At first they called their station Hyman-Almay-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between the signals from Hy-Al-Mu and a Mexican ship named "Myalmo", so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and identified their station as "HAM". In early pioneer and unregulated days of radio, amateur radio operators picked their own frequencies and call letter.

Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of Congressional Committee in Washington and they gave much thought to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity in 1911.

Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulations Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard . His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator Davis Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed he sent for Mr. Hyman to appear before the Committee. Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station "HAM" was built and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the licence fees and other requirements which were set up in the bill.

The debate started and the little station "HAM" became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country that were crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. Finally the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station called "HAM".

That's how it all got started . You can find the whole story in the Congressional Records. Nationwide publicity identified the station "HAM" with amateurs. From that time to this and probably to the end of time, in radio, EVERY AMATEUR IS A HAM.

THE G5RP TROPHY NOMINATIONS REQUIRED

This trophy is awarded annually by the RSGB to the up and coming DXer who has made the most progress in their first year or so of DXing. If you know somebody who has done well then nominate him or her for this year's G5RP Award. Unlike the usual awards, which are for past achievements, this one is aimed squarely at the "future" of DXing. We all know people who are making rapid progress in DXCC, IOTA and many other forms of HF DXing. If you are already an established DXer, these newcomers deserve your encouragement because the future of DXing is in their hands. If this message has reminded you of someone, contact Bob Whelan, G3PJT, NOW - telephone 0223-263137.

CDXC and the HF Convention

The Chiltern DX Club will be present as usual at the HF Convention. This does not just happen, it has to be planned an organised. I am looking for a few volunteers to form a sub- committee to get things organised and bring the whole thing together. Any volunteers? It will not be an onerous task if we start now!

If any of you have any ideas on what you would like to see CDXC doing at the HFC please let me know.

Many thanks.

Andrew G0HSD

FOR SALE

TL922 HF amplifier. 3 years old, very good condition with all leads and connectors. Boxed. Bargain at £1150.

TS180S HF Transceiver. With DFC memory unit (split operation possible), Fox Tango 250 Hz CW filter. Extremely reliable. Very good condition. 308 countries worked! Bargain at £395 no offers.

PS-30 Matching heavy duty PSU for the above. Very good condition. £90 . If purchased with TS180S £450 the lot.

KATSUMI EK-150 Iambic keyer, Very good condition £60.

5 x 10ft light weight lattice tower sections. Bolt together type. Ideal for small beam or wire antennas. Guys, base plate and top plate included. £50 the lot.

Slightly bent 2m Colinear base antenna. Works perfectly. £15.

If you are interested in any of the above items please contact G0HSD on 08444 2422 (evenings).

AWARDS MANAGER NEEDED

The Committee is seeking a volunteer for the position of Awards Manager. The Club gives several awards each year and it is necessary for some one to ensure that the are presented, engraved etc in time for the HF Convention. It is not a very onerous task but all other members of the Committee are over burdened in their other commitments to be able to spare the time. If you are able to help the club please let John, G3WGV know as soon as possible.

Many thanks to Paul, G4BKI, for his service last year.

VP8SSI PLAQUE

Great news! CDXC has been awarded a plaque by the VP8SSI team for the assistance given to them during their time in the UK. Bren, G4DYO, who pulled the CDXC efforts together, is holding the plaque (well, maybe not literally). Unfortunately we are not able to put a photo of it in this newsletter, but maybe we will manage to have it on display at the HF Convention. So, once again, well done and many thanks to all those who offered hospitality, transport, etc. to the VP8SSI gang.

HELP WANTED

Now comes the sting in the tail (see above). We want you to do it again! News is starting to come in of overseas visitors expected for the RSGB HF & IOTA Convention at the end of September and it would be nice if we could offer accommodation to as many of these as possible. If you are able to assist either over the Convention weekend (for those finding the Beaumont prices a little too steep on top of their travel costs) or for a few days before/after please contact G3ZAY ASAP. Martin's 'phone number is 0223 424714. Let's try to show that the famed English "reserve" is just a myth.

Cocos Island - TI9

From DXNS: 7.8.84

Cocos Island is located 5 32 N, 87 4 W, 500km from the Costa Rican coast, 650km NNE of the Galapagos Islands, and has an area of 24 square km. Known since the 16th century as 'Isle de Coques', a favourite place for pirates, corsairs and whalers who used the island as a source of fresh water, wood, meat and coconuts. At least 20 treasures are said to have been buried there, including the loot of Lima by William Thompson in 1820 and Bennett Graham (Benito Bonito) with his ship 'Lightning' who looted many cities and ships along the South American coast. During the 1800's, over 400 expeditions spent years looking for these fabulous treasures, including Gissler who lived 18 years in the so-called 'Treasure Island', leaving an innumerable amount of caves all over the area.

On the rocks at Chatham Bay one can find thousands of inscriptions of pirates and other visitors dating back as far back as the 17th century. In 1874, the Costa Rican government used the island as a prison for a period of seven years. Uninhabited for the past 90 years, the island was recently declared a National Primary Forest Reserve and is the subject of many biological studies. The island is primarily composed of volcanic lavas covered by very dense vegetation, with high humidity due to abundant rains which produce hundreds of waterfalls draining out into the Pacific Ocean through the high coral reefs.

Landing is somewhat difficult and only possible at Chatham Bay in the north part and Wafer Bay on the west side where in 1978 a complete amateur radio station and antenna tower system was installed by TI2CF and left there for future amateur visits. No permanent residents live on the island, therefore, generators, fuel, some antennas and food have to be taken on each trip. Transportation is only feasible by chartered boats from Port Puntarenas and takes 4 days round trip.

Spratly Islands - 1S

From DXNS 22.3.83

The Spratly Islands are located in the South China Sea, an area roughly bounded by Malaysia in the south, Vietnam in the west, China in the north and the Philippines in the east. The Spratlys, named after Spratly Island, consist of about 100 islands, reefs and cays, of which only 33 remain above sea level. The group covers an area of 180,00 sq. kilometres. Other than for fishing, the Spratlys had very little commercial value until the 1970s when the possibility of oil was considered. All, or part of the group is claimed by China, Vietnam, Malysia, Taiwan and the Philippines. Currently, only China and Malaysia lack any physical presence there. The Philippines occupies seven islands in the group, Vietnam five, and Taiwan one. You may recall that one DXpedition to the area was not allowed to land on Spratly Island and shots were fired on the boat. Most of the major islands are rather small, with the largest being less than one mile long and 625 yards wide.

But which country owns the Spratlys? China bases its claim on rights that are said to date back to 200 BC, but their physical presence has been minimal. The former Saigon government claimed ownership based on a standard geographical work completed between 1865 and 1867. However, in 1887 the French government acknowledged Chinese sovereignty over all islands in the South China Sea. In 1933 France occupied 9 islands in the Spratly group but was driven out by the Japanese 6 years later. The Japanese maintained a submarine base there during WW2 and at that time claimed that the Spratlys had been under their economic control since 1917. Taiwan claims it has maintained a permanent garrison there since the end of WW2. The Philippines bases its claim on its close proximity to the islands. Regardless of who lays claim on the islands they still count as a valid DXCC country and many of us can't wait to work 'em.

IOTA/HF CONVENTION

Don't forget to book the 1992 RSGB HF and IOTA Convention in your diaries. 25-27 Sept.

Minutes of the CDXC Annual Review Meeting, held on 17 May 1992 at the QTH of G3WGV.

1. The meeting was attended by 18 members: G0CCH, G0HSD, G0MFO, G3AEZ, G3COJ, G3KMA, G3LQP, G3OZF, G3PJT, G3PMR, G3RUR, G3VKW, G3WGV, G3XTT, G3ZAY, G4BKI, G4BLX, and G6LX.

2. Apologies for absence were received from G0GLB, G3HTA, G3NKS, G3NOH, G3SWH, G3TXF, G4AZN, G4BUO, G4DYO, G4PFF, and P29DX.

3. **Minutes of the previous ARM:** G6LX proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting as they appeared in the July 1991 issue of the CDXC newsletter be accepted. The proposal was approved.

4. **Chairman's Report:** Martin, G3ZAY, reflected on the significant DX events of the previous year. Several CDXC members have this year completed the current active DXCC countries list. Albania, Burma, South Sandwich Islands, Spratly, Clipperton, and Afghanistan, all high on the needed countries list, had been activated during the past year. CDXC members had participated in events on Clipperton, Solomon Islands, several Caribbean Islands, and 4U1ITU. CDXC members also greeted and provided lodging and transportation for the VP8SSI team on their way to and from the South Sandwich Islands. Plaques were awarded to G3SXW, G3TXF, G3WVG, N7NG, and F2CW. Contest plaque winners were G3XTT for his GJ6UW effort, and GW4BLE for their efforts in the CQ Worldwide contest. Donations were made to the XY0RR and VP8SSI expeditions.

Video tapes about DXing were donated to the RSGB Audio-Visual library, for use by UK clubs, and they are in high demand. The newsletter has doubled in size over the prior year. Several small social events were held. A CDXC club entry in the National Field Day placed twelfth in the restricted section, and a team consisting of CDXC members won the open section. CDXC members attended both the Visalia DX convention and the Dayton HamVention.

Martin thanked the outgoing committee for their efforts throughout the year.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Ron, G6LX, presented his report, which appears in this issue of the CDXC newsletter. Ron commented on the difficulties of sorting out memberships paid by Standing Order, and some discussion ensued as to how best handle these problems.

6. **Secretary's Report:** Dick, G0MFO reported that as of the current date the club had 120 members. 17 of these members are new, 30 members elected not to renew their memberships. G6LX reported that the majority of those that did not renew joined for the first time at the 1990 HF convention and did not attend the 1991 HF convention.

7. **Election of New Committee:** G3OZF presided over the election of officers for the 1992-1993 year. The outcome was as follows:

Chairman: John, G3WGV was proposed by G3XTT, seconded by G3LQP, elected unanimously.

Secretary: Alan, G3PMR was proposed by G3ZAY, seconded by G3WGV, elected unanimously.

Treasurer: Ron, G6LX was proposed by G3PMR, seconded by G3KMA, elected unanimously.

President: Martin, G3ZAY was proposed by G3WGV, seconded by G6LX, elected unanimously.

Vice Chairman: Keith, G3VKW was proposed by G3ZAY, seconded by G0HSD, elected unanimously.

Newsletter Editor: Andrew, G0HSD was proposed by G3WGV, seconded by G3KMA, elected unanimously.

8. The new Chairman, G3WGV, then took over the meeting. John presented his views on what he hoped would be accomplished during the upcoming year. John expressed a desire to reverse the decline of membership by increased promotion. Suggestions from several members were made as to how best promote the club, including advertisements in various publications, presentations to local clubs, flyers, items in the DX News Sheet, and encouragement of new DXers.

9. The decline in membership was discussed at some length. Several members stated that the club should better promote itself.

Some expressed the view that the club was large enough, and that the entry criteria weren't sufficiently high. G3LQP warned of the management problems which may arise if the club became significantly bigger. There was some discussion as to the what the purpose of the club is or ought to be. It was agreed that the new Committee would review the subject of membership level and publicity, and also

the terms of reference of the club, the results of which would be advised to members via the news letter. It was proposed that a DX guide should be produced, which would be part of the new members "welcome pack". This guide could also be sold to non members.

10. G3WGV suggested that the club become more involved in improving the PacketCluster network by aiding fund raising. Improvements to the DX spotting network are required, and deemed to be a very important contribution that the club could make. A show of hands indicated that all but one of the members present were PacketCluster users. Two members present were Sysops or assistant Sysops and indicated the scope of investment necessary for significant improvement was on the order of £10,000. It was agreed that the role of CDXC in the PacketCluster network should be reviewed by the Committee. Any proposals would be made to and in conjunction with the UKCWG.

11. John, G3AEZ was proposed as auditor by G3WGV, seconded by G0HSD, elected unanimously.

12. A vote of thanks was given to Tony, G3RUR, who has served as our auditor for several years.

13. The meeting adjourned at 17:05 local time.

WELCOME

I'd like to Welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G0KCA	John Walder-Davis	(Broadstairs)
G0ARF	Bob Canning	(Leominster)
G4RKO	Barry Cooper	(Newbury)
G0LRH	Raymond James	(Bungay)
G4EVS	David Johnstone	(Guisborough)
G3SNN	A Woolford	(Gloucester)
G4ODV	B.Coyne	(Redruth)

I hope that you all enjoy being members of CDXC, and that you will actively participate in our activities. I look forward to meeting you all.

Good DXing. Alan, G3PMR, Secretary

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 26 MAY 1991 TO 7 MAY 1992

1991	EXPENDITURE	1992	1991	INCOME	1992
£		£	£		£
587.12	Newsletter (See not 1)	685.58	1347.50	Subscriptions & donations	1192.50
277.10	Trophy/Awards (See note 2)	27.45	138.00	Sales-G3WGV Log Shacklog and T Shirts	203.50
25.00	HF Convention (Booth hire)	20.00	34.87	Bank interest	18.26
14.95	RSGB Affil. Fee	17.95			
17.40	T-Shirts	56.18			
58.45	Postage	5.23			
20.00	Funeral donation	-			
361.09	VP8 Expeditions	100.00			
	XY Expedition ($500)	285.72			
159.26	Surplus	266.15			
1520.37		1414.26	1520.37		1414.26

BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 7 MAY 1992

LIABILITIES:	£	ASSETS:	£
Reserve at 26 May 1991	854.15	Cash at Bank Current A/c	69.21
Surplus for period	266.15	Deposit A/c	1051.09
	1120.30		1120.30

NOTES TO THESE ACCOUNTS

1- The expenditure on Newsletters does not take account of one issue that was printed without charge. If this cost was added, the correct expenditure for this item would have exceeded £800.00.

2- The expenditure this year only covered engraving of existing trophies.

3- The amount shown for 1990-91 covers donations to YA0RR and VQ9AY.

Ron Glaisher, G6LX
Treasurer